

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 16 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented method for identification, processing, and comparison of location coordinate data in a confidential and anonymous manner, comprising:

receiving, in a computer, a plurality of fixed coordinates that represent a location of an item, the plurality of fixed coordinates being generated by more than one process;

utilizing, in the computer, a cryptographic algorithm to encrypt the plurality of fixed coordinates, thereby forming a processed data; and

comparing, in the computer, the encrypted fixed coordinates of the processed data to at least a portion of secondary data that comprises one or more encrypted fixed coordinates to determine whether a relationship exists between the encrypted fixed coordinates of the processed data and the encrypted fixed coordinates of the secondary data.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving data representing the location of the item and determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location of the item prior to receiving the plurality of fixed coordinates.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the processed data in a database.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of comparing the processed data to at least a portion of secondary data includes the secondary data comprising data previously stored in a database.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of matching the processed data to the at least a portion of secondary data that is determined to reflect an identical one of the plurality of fixed coordinates.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of issuing a signal based upon a user-defined rule.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location occurs in relation to a grid.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the grid comprises a uniform grid.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the grid comprises a non-uniform grid.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the grid is a multi-dimensional grid.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the grid is based upon a user-defined criterion.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein the user-defined criterion corresponds with quantity.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein the user-defined criterion corresponds to time.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location includes the step of determining a nearest of the plurality of fixed coordinates.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining a plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location includes the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates surrounding the location.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) For a computer-implemented system for identification, processing, and comparison of location coordinate data in a confidential and anonymous manner,

and a computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution by a computer for performing the method, comprising:

receiving, in a computer, a plurality of fixed coordinates that represent a location of an item, the plurality of fixed coordinates being generated by more than one process;

utilizing, in the computer, a cryptographic algorithm to encrypt the plurality of fixed coordinates, thereby forming a processed data; and

comparing, in the computer, the encrypted fixed coordinates of the processed data to at least a portion of secondary data that comprises one or more encrypted fixed coordinates to determine whether a relationship exists between the encrypted fixed coordinates of the processed data and the encrypted fixed coordinates of the secondary data.

17. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 further comprising the step of receiving data representing the location of the item and determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location of the item prior to receiving the plurality of fixed coordinates.

18. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 further comprising the step of storing the processed data in a database.

19. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 wherein the step of comparing the processed data to at least a portion of secondary data includes the secondary data comprising data previously stored in a database.

20. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 further comprising the step of matching the processed data to the at least a portion of secondary data that is determined to reflect an identical one of the plurality of fixed coordinates.

21. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 further comprising the step of issuing a signal based upon a user-defined rule.

22. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 wherein the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location occurs in relation to a grid.

23. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 22 wherein the grid comprises a uniform grid.

24. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 22 wherein the grid comprises a non-uniform grid.

25. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 22 wherein the grid is a multi-dimensional grid.

26. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 22 wherein the grid is based upon a user-defined criterion.

27. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 26 wherein the user-defined criterion corresponds with quantity.

28. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 26 wherein the user-defined criterion corresponds to time.

29. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 wherein the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location includes the step of determining the nearest of the plurality of fixed coordinates.

30. (ORIGINAL) The computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 16 wherein the step of determining a plurality of fixed coordinates that represent the location includes the step of determining the plurality of fixed coordinates surrounding the location.